

T-678
Thomas H. Kirby House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1885

Contrasting architectural features of this Mulberry Street house provide interesting clues to a more complex history that otherwise would not have been evident. On the surface this house convincingly dates to the late years of the nineteenth century, and it was probably erected by Thomas H. Kirby during his ownership of the property between 1884 and 1915. However, a number of reused materials, especially doors located on the second floor, point to the likely fact that Kirby erected this house on the site of an older dwelling from which he salvaged parts. The chain-of-title and the 1877 St. Michaels town map indicate a house has been located on this lot since the time of the Civil War.

Thomas H. Kirby is known to have operated a boatyard on Cherry Street. Mrs. Preston Keithley, who was born in the Dodson house on Navy Point, has stated that Kirby erected a foot bridge across the marsh at Church Cove as a short-cut to his boatyard. His Mulberry Street house was designed in the same fashion as many other dwellings in St. Michaels with a symmetrical street elevation, a centered cross-gable, and a decorative Victorian front porch. The interior, following the traditional center hall plan, is finished with late nineteenth-century Victorian woodwork. With its period architectural features this house contributes to the historic nature of Mulberry Street.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-678

Magi No. 2106782604

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic THOMAS H. KIRBY HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 207 Mulberry Street not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dwyer

street & number 207 Mulberry Street telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels. state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 425

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 336

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas H. Kirby house is located at 207 Mulberry Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, center hall frame house faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1885, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and is uniformly sheathed with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing.

The south (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking windows. The paneled double front door is topped by a two-light transom, and the entire center bay is sheltered by a hip roof porch supported by slender turned posts in clusters of three. The eave to the porch is highlighted by decorative brackets and spindle decoration. Surviving on the porch roof is a layer of standing seam tin. To each side of the entrance, pairs of single-pane sash windows light the first floor. Lighting the second floor are three pairs of single-pane sash windows. All the windows retain louvered shutters. The cross-gable is pierced by an arched single-pane sash window, and rising through the roof is a brick chimney finished with a corbelled cap.

The west end of the house is marked by a pair of two-over-two sash windows that light the first and second floors. The eaves are slightly extended beyond the gable end wall surface. The east end is lighted by single two-over-two sash windows on each floor.

Covering the north (back) side of the house is a two-story service wing with an enclosed shed porch that runs across the west side. The service wing is lighted by a combination of two-over-two and six-over-six sash windows.

The interior finishes largely date from the last decades of the nineteenth century, however several second floor doors appear to have been reworked and reused in new positions. The first floor is divided in a standard manner with a center stair hall and a single room to each side. The large, square newel post and a series of slender balusters support a molded handrail. Shallow four-panel doors framed by plain surrounds open into the adjacent rooms which are fitted with ogee molded baseboards and post-and-lintel mantels. Later chair rail has been inserted in the east room. The service wing is finished with late nineteenth century features including partially glazed doors and two-light transoms above. A back stair provides access to the second floor rooms.

The second floor is finished in a simple manner, however a few two-panel and four-panel doors dating from the 1850s or 1860s have been reused as bedroom or closet doors.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-678

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Contrasting architectural features of this Mulberry Street house provide interesting clues to a more complex history that otherwise would not have been evident. On the surface this house convincingly dates to the late years of the nineteenth century, and was probably erected by Thomas H. Kirby during his ownership of the property between 1884 and 1915. However, a number of reused materials, especially doors located on the second floor, point to the likely fact that Kirby erected this house on the site of an older dwelling from which he salvaged parts. The chain-of-title and the 1877 St. Michaels town map indicate a house has been on this site since the Civil War.

Thomas H. Kirby is known to have operated a boatyard on Cherry Street. Mrs. Preston Keithley, who was born in the Dodson house on Navy Point, has stated that Kirby erected a foot bridge across the marsh at Church Cove as a short-cut to his boatyard. His Mulberry Street house was designed in the same fashion as many other dwellings in St. Michaels with a symmetrical street elevation, a cross-gable and a decorative Victorian front porch. The interior, following the traditional center hall plan, is finished with late nineteenth-century Victorian woodwork. With its period architectural features this house contributes to the historic nature of Mulberry Street.

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 425 PAGE: 336
FROM: Elmer C. Warner, widower PRICE:
TO: Joseph V. Phelps and Marion H. Phelps
NOTES Known as 121 Mulberry Street. Lot is 66' x 185' "running back to a cove called "The Thoroughfare". Conveyed to Elmer Carey Warner and Olie Eaton Warner by John R. Kirby 1921, 190/80.

YEAR: 1921 VOL: 190 PAGE: 80
FROM: John R. Kirby et al PRICE: \$3500
TO: Elmer Carey Warner and Olie Eaton Warner
NOTES The "et al" are: Amelia A. Kirby ; Edward N. Kirby and Lillian A Kirby; William B. Kirby. Heirs of Thomas H. Kirby who died in 1915. The property adjoins Susan A. Harrison and others.
Conveyed to Thomas H. Kirby by George E. Haddaway 1884, 98/426.

YEAR: 1884 VOL: 98 PAGE: 426
FROM: George E. Haddaway and Annie R. Haddaway PRICE: \$1000
TO: Thomas H. Kirby
NOTES Same description, but no dimensions.
Conveyed to Haddaway by Alphaeus A. Townsend, trustee 1871, 77/271.

YEAR: 1871 VOL: 77 PAGE: 271
FROM: Alphaeus A. Townsend, trustee PRICE: \$805
TO: George E. Haddaway
NOTES Sale on mortgage foreclosure of Mary Ellen Leonard and Daniel Leonard mortgage on "house and lot" 1869, 75/408.
Conveyed to Leonard by James D. Mansfield 1865, 72/24.

YEAR: 1869 VOL: 75 PAGE: 408 (Mortgage)
FROM: Daniel Leonard and Mary Ellen Leonard PRICE: \$692
TO: Peter H. Battee
NOTES Begins at Mary Roberts lot on Mulberry Street; run E with Mulberry 65' to Solomon Plummer; N 200 feet to the waters of Church Cove; W 75 feet then S 200 feet to beginning.
Conveyed to Leonard by Mansfield 1865, 72/24.

YEAR: 1865 VOL: 72 PAGE: 24
FROM: James D. Mansfield and Margaret Mansfield PRICE: \$1200
TO: Mary E. Leonard
NOTES Same description.

YEAR: 1865 VOL: 71 PAGE: 480

FROM: James Valliant admin. of Rigby Valliant dcd. PRICE: \$800

TO: James D. Mansfield

NOTES Same description.

With this deed, lot number 12 comes under a different ownership than lot 13 with which it had been associated since 1785.

YEAR: 1840 VOL: 55 PAGE: 130

FROM: Alexander B. Harrison PRICE:

TO: Rigby Valliant

NOTES Alexander B. Harrison was acting for his sister Lillian Barrow of Indiana. He was to remit to their mother Lettitia Barrow. The deed included lots 12 and 13 (Amelia Welby House).

Nothing has been found to tie this sale to the purchase by Robert Hay. Hay died in 1806. He made a will leaving his property to his wife, and at her death it was to go to a nephew in Ireland. Hay's widow married Col. Perry Spencer. Hay's daughter Margaret married Owen Allen of Baltimore in 1806. The Gazette for 3 July 1821 advertises for sale the house in which Charles D. Barrow lives. The agent was Richard Spencer representing Owen Allen. No record of a sale has been found, but Charles D. Barrow married Lettitia Harrison and removed to Fayette, Indiana.

YEAR: 1790 VOL: 24 PAGE: 182

FROM: Robert Rolle PRICE: p131 10s s

TO: Robert Hay

NOTES Deed includes lots 12 and 13.

YEAR: 1785 VOL: 23 PAGE: 89

FROM: William Harrison of Joseph PRICE: p200 speci

TO: Robert Rolle

NOTES Deed made 7 December 1785. Included lots 12 and 13. The price paid is very high! Although not mentioned in the deed, the brick house was located on lot 13

The following deeds which specifically mention lot 12 have been ignored. They are confusing and add little to the chain:

1784, 22/171 made 1 November. William Harrison to James Wignal. After reciting the settlement of Philip Wetheral's property (Bentley Hay, Janes Progress and The Beach) it includes "lots 12 and 13, with a brick house on one of them"

1786, 23/116 signed 7 December 1785. James Wignal to William Harrison. Stated to be a "release" from a mortgage held by Wignal. It covers essentially the same property mentioned in 22/171, including lots 12, 13, and the brick house. This "release" makes sense only if a deed showing a sale from Wignal to Harrison in which Wignal takes a mortgage in payment, can be found. This has not been located.

YEAR: 1781 VOL: 21 PAGE: 232

FROM: James Braddock PRICE: p15 cm

TO: William Harrison, Jr., "Blacksmith"

NOTES Lot number 12.

On the line between "The Beach" and "Jane's Progress".

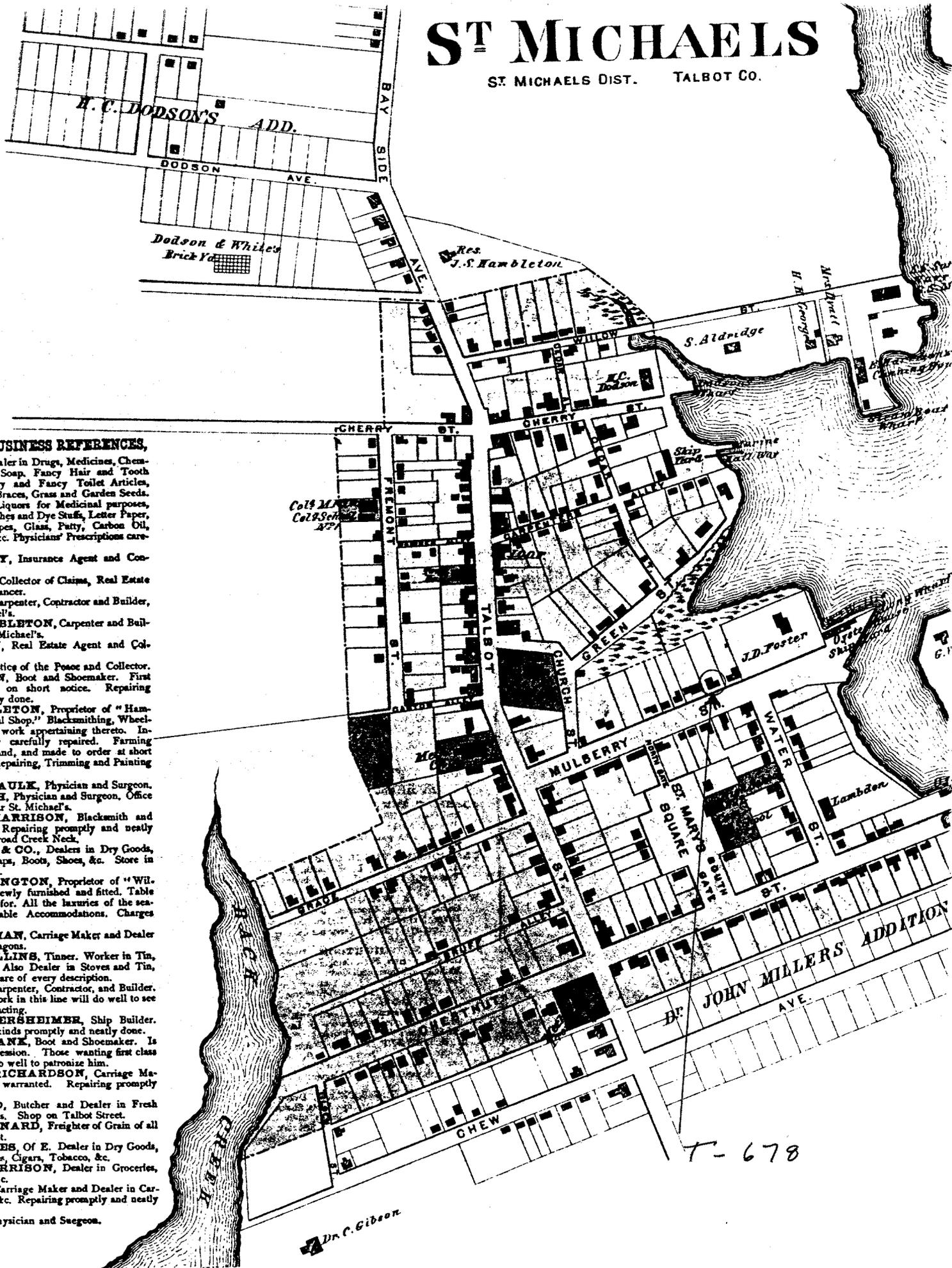
It was part of the land purchased by James Braddock from the estate of Philip Wetheral, 1778.

The Thomas Kirby who owned the house in 1884 also ran the boatyard on Cherry Street. Mrs. Preston Keithley, who was born in the Dodson House on Navy Point, says that Kirby built a foot bridge across the marsh as a short-cut to his boatyard. She used it to reach the school on St. Mary's Square

The first deed, 1968, 465/336 states that the property goes back to a "cove called "The Thoroughfare". This is the kind of thing that starts trouble!! "The Thoroughfare" is Green Street. The "cove" is Church Cove, now Muskrat Park. Some day someone might get the idea of claiming the lot extended all the way to Green Street!

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

- DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Brushes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, and Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Stoves, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- HADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
- W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
- ISDYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- ED H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- ESPERSON**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Taxes.
- SPARKS**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
- SMITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hamilton's Mechanical Shop," Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Incomplete Machinery carefully repaired. Farming Implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.
- WILLIAM CAULK**, Physician and Surgeon.
- JAMES BETH**, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.
- LIAM S. HARRISON**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.
- E. NEAVITT & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.
- N. T. HARRINGTON**, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.
- NIEL J. KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.
- GEORGE W. COLLINS**, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.
- E. BLADES**, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.
- SEPH HERGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
- IVYER FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.
- HARRISON & RICHARDSON**, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- J. HOLLAND**, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.
- PT. C. R. LEONARD**, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.
- TOMAS BLADES, Of E.** Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
- WILLIAM HARRISON**, Dealer in Groceries, Confectioneries, &c.
- S. KILMON**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- A. DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.

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Dr. C. Gibson



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Thomas H. Kirby House
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle, 1942

LC
PC



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THOMAS H. KIRBY HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

South elevation

6/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust